

POLS 4392/5300
Fall 2024

American Government and Politics
Tuesday 7:00 – 9:50 PM
Location: UH 455 (UH 13 on August 20th)

Instructor: Dr. Brent Boyea

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00-10:45AM and by appointment

Microsoft Teams link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3Aq8ixqnqLNDeVfEyg4jMlmdypxfDNijlCRGLXm1jlic81%40thead.tacv2/conversations?groupId=41d0fb37-041f-4585-9d07-c1830c7be91b&tenantId=5cdc5b43-d7be-4caa-8173-729e3b0a62d9>

I. Introduction:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the theoretical and empirical issues explored in the study of American government and politics at the national and subnational levels. We will cover a range of topics including American political development, political behavior, parties and interest groups, and institutional perspectives of American political offices. The course is a survey of important books and articles on various aspects of American politics with the intent to familiarize the student with core ideas and debates in the subfield.

The structure of the course material and objectives for the course are intended for an advanced undergraduate or graduate student's first introduction to the subfield of American politics. Our focus will be on the institutions of American government, the behavior of those influencing those institutions, and how institutions shape behavior. We will consider both the logic and nature of evidence supporting the arguments presented during the course.

II. Required Text:

There are eight required books for this class, which will be available for purchase at the University Bookstore, an on-line bookseller, or have access through the university library links. If purchasing on-line, use expedited shipping as readings will begin immediately.

1. Baumgartner, Frank, and Brian Jones. 2009. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*, 2nd Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (ISBN – 9780226039497).
 - a. Hardcopy on reserve through university library, 24-hour loan period
2. Black, Ryan, Ryan Owens, Justin Wedeking, and Patrick Wohlfarth. 2017. *US Supreme Court Opinions and their Audiences*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN – 9781316502105).
 - a. Hardcopy on reserve through university library, 24-hour loan period
3. Bolton, Alexander, and Sharece Thrower. 2021. *Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power*. Princeton University Press. (ISBN – 9780691224596).

- a. Full text available through university library - <https://doi-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/10.1515/9780691224602>
4. Cohen, Marty, David Karol, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2008. *The Party Decides: Presidential Nominations Before and After Reform*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (ISBN - 9780226112374).
 - a. Hardcopy on reserve through university library, 24-hour loan period
5. Matt Grossmann. 2019. *Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN – 9781108701754).
 - a. Full text available through university library - <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569187>
6. La Raja, Raymond and Brian Schaffner. 2015. *Campaign Finance and Political Polarization: When Purists Prevail*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. (ISBN – 9780472052998).
 - a. Full text available through university library - <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/utar/detail.action?docID=4312079>
7. Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. (ISBN - 9780674537514).
 - a. Hardcopy on reserve through university library, 24-hour loan period
8. Schickler, Eric. 2001. *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (ISBN - 9780691049267).
 - a. Full text available through university library – <https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://doi-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/10.1515/9781400824250>
9. Prepared Book Readings. UTA Libraries Online: Course Reserves. URL: https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves/5793568570004911
10. Prepared Articles on Canvas. To access Canvas, visit <https://www.uta.edu/provost/Canvas/uta-canvas-login.php> or contact the Office of Information Technology Help Desk at 817-272-2208.

III. Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and Participation – Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend each class and arrive on time prepared to discuss the current week's readings. Class participation should reflect careful thinking about the readings. On the Wednesday prior to class, a series of questions (3-4) will be posted in Canvas (the Discussions page). These questions are intended to direct students to the major ideas/debates in the readings. Additionally, each student will be assigned several weeks where they will be responsible for discussing the week's readings as an in-class leader (see below under "Student Leader/Topic Presentations"). While all students are expected to complete the readings and be prepared to discuss, participation as the leader will provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate broader command of the topic. Lastly, laptop computers or tablets should be used for class purposes only. While the benefits of laptops and tablets are numerous, they generally are inappropriate for graduate seminars. [While class is generally in-person, online classes will be conducted through MS Teams.]
2. Student Leader/Topic Presentations - Students will be required to summarize the materials for three separate weeks of readings. Student leaders will create a brief PowerPoint presentation (4-5 slides, without deviation) to be uploaded to Canvas. Student presentations may, where I feel appropriate, be incorporated into class. There is flexibility with the format of the presentations (text with audio, illustrations with audio, video, or a combination), but presentations must describe the contributions of the readings relating to theory, hypotheses, data/methodology, and conclusions. Connections between the readings must be made with

consideration about how the readings tie to the larger subject. Presentations must be uploaded to the “Topic Presentations” link in the Assignments page in Canvas by 9AM of the morning of our class. Weekly leader assignments will be distributed on August 27 and presentations will begin on September 3. Presentations received after 9AM will receive a 30-point grade penalty.

3. Readings List – Each student is required to select one weekly theme between Week 3 (Public Opinion) and Week 14 (Policymaking) and develop a comprehensive readings list of publications connected to that state politics topic. Readings lists may include books, articles, and book chapters published since 2005 (not before) and only from the field of political science. Though not required, students are encouraged to connect their list to their research paper. Readings should be organized by subtopic and organized alphabetically by author(s) and date of publication. Citations should be in APA format style. Examples of APA format can be found at: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html. Completed readings lists are due on October 29 at 9AM and must be uploaded to the “Readings List” link in the Assignments page in Canvas. Late submissions will result in a 30-point grade penalty.
4. Research Proposal - Each student is required to write a semester research paper (e.g., public opinion liberalism, voter participation with early or mail-in voting, impact of campaign finance laws, polarization of political primaries, congressional delegation of authority, use of executive orders, role of US Solicitor General, public health policy, etc.). Research should be independent and form a research design, including a question, literature review, and several well-stated hypotheses. Introductory quantitative analysis is required as a component of the paper, meaning the use of descriptive data to test assumptions. A list of acceptable datasets will be distributed towards the beginning of the semester. A single-spaced one-page research proposal (10 percent of course grade) is due on October 1 at 9AM. Proposals must be uploaded to the “Research Proposal” link in the Assignments page in Canvas by the beginning of class. Late submissions will result in a 30-point grade penalty.
5. Research Paper – Building upon the topic selected in the proposal, research papers should reflect a thorough semester project. Students should aim for a 12-page paper. Completed papers are due by the beginning of class on December 3 at 7PM and must be uploaded to the “Research Paper” link in the Assignments page in Canvas. Late papers will not be accepted resulting in a grade of zero.

IV. Grading

Grades will be posted on Canvas. To access grades on Canvas, log in with your UTA email address and password at uta.instructure.com. If you have difficulty with Canvas, visit <https://www.uta.edu/provost//Canvas/uta-canvas-login.php> or contact the Office of Information Technology Help Desk at 817-272-2208. The grade components of the course are:

1. Attendance and Participation – 15%
2. Topic Presentation – 25%
3. Readings List – 15%
4. Research Paper Proposal – 10%
5. Research Paper – 35%

Grades will be posted on Canvas. The grading scale is as follows:

90-100 A

80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-59	F

Policy on incomplete grades (I's): Given that an incomplete grade can be a permanent grade assignment, incompletes are strongly avoided. An incomplete grade will be assigned only in the most extreme cases of sickness that occur after the university's withdrawal deadline.

V. Class Schedule:

Week 1: August 20

Introduction to the Course and Review of Syllabus

Week 2: August 27

Studying American Institutions: Incentives and Decision-making

Required Readings:

- Hall, Peter, and Rosemary Taylor. 1996. Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms. *Political Studies* 44: 936-957. (<https://search-ebSCOhost-com.ezproxy.uta.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=9705162186&site=ehost-live>)
- Polsby, Nelson. 1968. "The Institutionalization of the US House of Representatives." *APSR* 62: 144-168. (<https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/1953331>)
- Weingast, Barry. 1979. "A Rational Choice Perspective on Congressional Norms." *AJPS* 23:245-262. (<https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2111001>)
- Ragsdale, Lyn, and John Theis, III. 1997. "The Institutionalization of the American Presidency, 1924-92." *AJPS* 1280-1318. (<https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2960490>)
- Walker, Thomas, Lee Epstein, and William Dixon. 1988. "On the Mysterious Demise of Consensual Norms in the United States Supreme Court." *JOP* 50: 361-389. (<https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2131799>)

Suggested Readings:

- Riker, William. 1980. "Implications from the Disequilibrium of Majority Rule for the Study of Institutions." *APSR* 74: 432-458.
- Hibbing, John. 1988. "Legislative Institutionalization with Illustrations from the British House of Commons." *AJPS* 32: 681-712.
- March, James, and Johan Olsen. 1984. "The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Politics." *APSR* 78: 734-749.
- North, Douglass C. 1990. *Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance*.
- Ostrom, Elinor. 1990. *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action*.
- Diermeier, Daniel, and Keith Krehbiel. 2003. "Institutionalism as a Methodology." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 15:123-144.

Week 3: September 3 (Class is online via Teams – not in UH 455)

Public Opinion

Required Readings:

- Zaller, John, and Stanley Feldman. 1992. "A Simple Theory of the Survey Response: Answering Questions versus Revealing Preferences." *AJPS* 36: 579-616.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2111583>
- Bartels, Larry. 2005. "Homer Gets a Tax Cut: Inequality and Public Policy in the American Mind." *Perspectives on Politics* 3: 15-31. (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3688108>)
- Hainmueller, Jens, and Daniel Hopkins. 2014. "The Hidden American Immigration Consensus: A Conjoint Analysis of Attitudes toward Immigrants." *JOP* 59: 529-548.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/24583081>
- Filindra, Alexandra, and Noah J. Kaplan. 2016. "Racial Resentment and Whites' Gun Policy Preferences in Contemporary America." *Political Behavior* 38: 255-275.
<https://rdcu.be/dJnzf>

Suggested Readings:

- Campbell, Angus, Philip Converse, Warren Miller, and Donald Stokes. 1960. *The American Voter*.
- Converse, Philip. 1964. "The Nature of Mass Belief Systems in Mass Publics." in *Ideology and Discontent*, ed. David Apter, pp. 206-261. In Canvas.
- Key, Jr., V.O. 1961. *Public Opinion and American Democracy*.
- Almond, Gabriel, and Sidney Verba. 1963. *The Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*.
- Stimson, James. 1991. *Public Opinion in America: Moods, Cycles, and Swings*.
- Zaller, John. 1992. *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Hibbing, John, and Elizabeth Theis-Morse. 2002. *Stealth Democracy*.
- Gaines, Brian, et al. 2007. "Same Facts, Different Interpretations: Partisan Motivation and Opinion on Iraq." *JOP* 69: 957-974.
- Prior, Markus. 2010. "You've Either Got It or You Don't? The Stability of Political Interest over the Life Cycle." *JOP* 72: 747-766.

Week 4: September 10 Participation

Required Readings:

- Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper and Row.
- In Canvas
 - Hardcopy on reserve through university library, 24-hour loan period
- Additional student leader reading: Gerber, Alan, Donald Green, and Christopher Larimer. 2008. "Social Pressure and Voter Turnout: Evidence from a Large-scale Field Experiment." *APSR* 102: 33-48. (<https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/27644496>)

Suggested Readings:

Voter Turnout

- Riker, William, and Peter Ordeshook. 1968. "A Theory of the Calculus of Voting," *APSR* 62: 25-42.
- Ansolabehere, Stephen, Shanto Iyengar, Adam Simon, and Nicholas Valentino. 1994. "Does Attack Advertising Demobilize the Electorate?" *APSR* 88: 829-838.
- Rosenstone, Steven, and John Mark Hansen. 1993. *Mobilization, Participation, and Democracy in America*.
- Geer, John. 2006. *In Defense of Negativity: Attack Ads in Presidential Campaigns*.

Voting Choice

- Fiorina, Morris. 1981. "Retrospective Voting in American National Elections: A Micro-Analysis." *AJPS* 22: 426-443.
- Popkin, Samuel. 1991. *The Reasoning Voter: Communication and Persuasion in Presidential Campaigns*.
- Lau, Richard, and David Redlawsk. 1997. "Voting Correctly." *APSR* 91: 585-97.
- Alford, John, Caroline Funk, and John Hibbing. 2005. "Are Political Orientations Genetically Transmitted?" *APSR* 99: 153-67.

Week 5: September 17
Interest Groups

Required Readings:

- Olson, Mancur. 1965. *The Logic of Collective Action*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Additional student leader reading: Hall, Richard, and Frank Wayman. 1990. "Buying Time: Moneyed Interests and the Mobilization of Bias in Congressional Committees." *APSR* 84: 797-820. (<https://www-istor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/1962767>)

Suggested Readings:

- Truman, David. 1971 (1951). *The Governmental Process*.
- Shattschneider, E.E. 1960. *The Semisovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America*.
- Walker, Jack. 1966. "A Critique of the Elitist Theory of Democracy." *APSR* 60: 287-95.
- Salisbury, Robert. 1969. "An Exchange Theory of Interest Groups." *Midwest Journal of Political Science* 13: 1-32.
- Lowi, Theodore. 1979. *The End of Liberalism*.
- Walker, Jack. 1983 "The Origins and Maintenance of Interest Groups in America." *APSR* 77: 390-406.
- Chong, Dennis. 1991. *Collective Action and the Civil Rights Movement*.
- Baumgartner, Frank, and Beth Leech. 1998. *Basic Interests: The Importance of Groups in Politics and in Political Science*.
- Baumgartner, Frank, et al. 2009. *Lobbying & Policy Change*.
- Schlozman, Kay, Sidney Verba, and Henry Brady. 2012. *The Unheavenly Chorus*.
- Hojnacki, Marie, et al. 2015. "Assessing Business Advantage in Washington Lobbying." *Interest Groups & Advocacy* 4: 205-224.

Week 6: September 24
Political Parties

Required Readings:

- Cohen, Marty, David Karol, Hans Noel, and John Zaller. 2008. *The Party Decides: Presidential Nominations Before and After Reform*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Suggested Readings:

Overview of Political Parties/Parties as Organizations

- APSA Committee on Political Parties. 1950. "Towards a More Responsible Two-Party System," *APSR* 64:1-96.
- Aldrich, John. 1995. *Why Parties?*
- Herrnson, Paul. 2009. "The Roles of Party Organizations, Party-Connected Committees, and

Party Allies in Elections." *JOP* 71:1207-1224.

Polarization

- Hetherington, Marc. 2001. "Resurgent Mass Partisanship: The Role of Elite Polarization." *APSR* 3:619-631.
- Layman, Geoffrey, and Thomas Carsey. 2002. "Party Polarization and 'Conflict Extension' in the American Electorate." *AJPS* 46:786-802.
- McCarty, Nolan, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 2006. *Polarized America: The Dance of Ideology Unequal Riches*.
- Abramowitz, Alan, and Kyle Saunders. 2008. "Is Polarization a Myth?" *JOP* 70: 542-555.
- Bartels, Larry. 2008. *Unequal Democracy*.
- McCarty, Nolan, Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. 2009. "Does Gerrymandering Cause Polarization?" *AJPS* 53: 666-680.

Electoral Mobilization

- Huckfeldt, Robert, and John Sprague. 1992. "Political Parties and Electoral Mobilization: Political Structure, Social Structure, and the Party Canvass." *APSR* 86:70-86.

Week 7: October 1

Congress

Required Readings:

- Miller, Warren, and Donald Stokes. 1963. "Constituency Influence in Congress." *APSR* 57: 45-56. (<https://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/1952717>)
- Cox, Gary and Matthew McCubbins. 1991. "On the Decline of Party Voting in Congress." *LSQ* 16: 547-570. (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/440017>)
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1993. "Where's the Party?" *British Journal of Political Science*. 23: 235-266. (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/194249>)
- Roberts, Jason and Steven Smith. 2003. "Procedural Contexts, Party Strategy, and Conditional Party Voting in the U.S. House of Representatives, 1971-2000." *AJPS* 47: 305-317. (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3186140>)
- Hibbing, John. 1986. "Ambition in the House: Behavioral Consequences of Higher Office Goals Among U.S. Representatives." *AJPS* 30: 651-665. (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2111094>)

Suggested Readings:

Congressional Elections

Jacobson, Gary. 1987. *The Politics of Congressional Elections*.

The Electoral Connection

- Mayhew, David. 1974. *The Electoral Connection*.
- Fenno, Jr., Richard. 1978. *Home Style: House Members in Their Districts*.
- Arnold, R. Douglas. 1990. *The Logic of Congressional Action*.
- Cox, Gary, and Jonathan Katz. 1996. "Why Did the Incumbency Advantage in U.S. House Elections Grow?" *AJPS* 40: 478-497.
- Ferejohn, John. 1986. "Incumbent Performance and Electoral Control." *Public Choice* 50: 5-25.
- Ashworth, Scott. 2012. "Electoral Accountability: Recent Theoretical and Empirical Work." *ARPS* 15: 183-201.
- Grimmer, Justin, Solomon Messing, and Sean Westwood. 2012. "How Words and Money Cultivate a Personal Vote." *APSR* 106: 703-719.

Committees in Congress

Fenno, Jr., Richard. 1973. *Congressmen in Committees*.

Shepsle, Kenneth. 1979. "Institutional Arrangements and Equilibrium in Multidimensional Voting Models." *AJPS* 23: 27-59.

Niou, Emerson, and Peter Ordshook. 1985. "Universalism in Congress." *AJPS* 29: 246-258.

Hall, Peter. 1996. *Participation in Congress*.

Baron, David, and John Ferejohn. 1989. "Bargaining in Legislatures," *APSR* 83:1181-1206.

Shepsle, Kenneth, and Barry Weingast, eds. 1995. *Positive Theories of Congressional Institutions*.

Legislative Leadership and Political Parties

Krehbiel, Keith. 1991. *Information and Legislative Organization*.

Cox, Gary, and Matthew McCubbins. 1993. *Legislative Leviathan: Party Government in the House*. Oakland: University of California Press.

Binder, Sarah. 1996 "The Partisan Basis of Procedural Choice: Parliamentary Rights in the House, 1789-1990." *APSR* 90: 8-20.

Poole, Keith, and Howard Rosenthal. 1997. *Congress: A Political-Economic History of Roll Call Voting*.

Schickler, Eric, and Andrew Rich. 1997. "Controlling the Floor: Parties as Procedural Coalitions in the House." *AJPS* 41: 1340-1375.

Schickler, Eric. 2000. "Institutional Change in the House of Representatives, 1867-1998: A Test of Partisan and Ideological Power Balance Models." *APSR* 94: 269-288.

Snyder, Jr., James, and Tim Groseclose. 2000. "Estimating Party Influence in Congressional Roll-Call Voting." *AJPS* 44: 193-211.

McCarty, Nolan, Keith Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. 2001. "The Hunt for Party Discipline." *APSR* 95: 673-687.

Gailmard, Sean, and Jeff Jenkins. 2007. "Negative Agenda Control in the Senate and House." *JOP* 69: 689-700.

Smith, Steven. 2007. *Party Influence in Congress*.

Butler, Daniel, and Eleanor Powell. 2014. "Understanding the Party Brand: Experimental Evidence on the Role of Valence." *JOP* 76: 492-505.

Ambitions and Institutional Structure

Rohde, David. 1979. "Risk-Bearing and Progressive Ambition: The Case of Members of the United States House of Representatives." *AJPS* 23: 1-26.

Schlesinger, Joseph. 1994. *Political Parties and the Winning of Office*.

Week 8: October 8 (Class is online via Teams – not in UH 455)

Congress II/American Political Development

Required Readings:

Schickler, Eric. 2001. *Disjointed Pluralism: Institutional Innovation and the Development of the U.S. Congress*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Suggested Readings:

Response to Schickler and Rich

Cox, Gary and Matthew McCubbin. 1997. "Toward a Theory of Legislative Rules Changes: Assessing Schickler and Rich's Evidence." *AJPS* 41: 1376-1386.

American Political Development

Hacker, Jacob. 1998. "The Historical Logic of National Health Insurance: Structure and Sequence in the Development of British, Canadian, and U.S. Medical Policy." *SAPD* 12: 57-130.

Pierson, Paul. 2000. "Not Just What, but When: Timing and Sequence in Political Processes." *SAPD* 14: 72-92.

Hacker, Jacob. 2001. *The Divided Welfare State: The Battle over Public and Private Social Benefits in the United States*.

Week 9: October 15

Polarization, Divided Government and Realignment

Required Readings:

- Fiorina, Morris. 1992. "An Era of Divided Government." *Political Science Quarterly* 107: 387-410. (<https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2152437>)
- Sundquist, James. 1988. "Needed: A Political Theory for the New Era of Coalition Government in the United States." *Political Science Quarterly* 103: 613-635. (<https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2150899>)
- Binder, Sarah. 1999. "The Dynamics of Legislative Gridlock, 1947-1996." *APSR* 93: 519-534. (<https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/2585572>)
- Edsall, Thomas. February 8, 2023. "Meet the People Working on Getting Us to Hate One Another Less." In Canvas.
- Mayhew, David R. 2000. "Electoral Realignment." *ARPS* 3: 449-74. (<http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.polisci.3.1.449>)

Suggested Readings:

Causes of Divided Government

- Fiorina, Morris. 1996. *Divided Government*.
- Jacobson, Gary. 1990. *The Electoral Origins of Divided Government: Competition in U.S. House Elections, 1946-1988*.
- Garand, James, and Marcu Glascock Lichtl. 2000. "Explaining Divided Government in the United States." *BJPS* 30: 173-191.
- Segura, Gary, and Stephen Nicholson. 1995. "Sequential Choices and Partisan Transitions in U.S. Senate Delegations: 1972-1988." *JOP* 57: 86-100.
- Sigelman, Lee, Paul Wahlbeck, and Emmett Buell, Jr. 1997. "Vote Choice and the Preferences for Divided Government: Lessons of 1992." *AJPS* 41: 879-894.

Consequences of Divided Government

- Mayhew, David. 1991. *Divided We Govern: Party Control, Lawmaking, and Investigations, 1946-1990*.
- Coleman, John. 1999. "Unified Government, Divided Government, and Party Responsiveness," *APSR* 93: 821-835.
- Krehbiel, Keith. 1998. *Pivotal Politics: A Theory of U.S. Lawmaking*.
- Jones, David. 2001. "Party Polarization and Legislative Gridlock." *PRQ* 54: 125-141.
- Saeki, Manabu. 2009. "Gridlock in the Government of the United States: Influence of Divided Government and Veto Players." *BJPS* 39: 587-607.

Realignments

- Key, V.O., Jr. 1955. "A Theory of Critical Elections." *JOP* 17:3-18.
- Burnham, Walter Dean. 1970. *Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics*.
- Sundquist, James. 1983. *Dynamics of the Party System: Alignment and Realignment of Political Parties in the United States*.
- Abramowitz, Alan, and Kyle Saunders. 1998. "Ideological Realignment in the U.S. Electorate." *JOP* 60: 634-52.
- Bartels, Larry. 1998. "Electoral Continuity and Change, 1868-1996." *Electoral Studies* 17: 301-326.

Meffert, Michael, Helmut Norpoth, and Anirudh Ruhil. 2001. "Realignment and Macropartisanship." *APSR* 95: 953-62.
Mayhew, David. 2002. *Electoral Realignments: A Critique of an American Genre*.

Week 10: October 22
Research Day – no class

Week 11: October 29
The Presidency

Required Readings:

Bolton, Alexander, and Sharece Thrower. 2021. *Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Suggested Readings:

Presidential Power

Barber, James David. 1985. *The Presidential Character*.

Lowi, Theodore. 1985. *The Personal President: Power Invested, Promise Unfulfilled*.

Neustadt, Richard. 1990. Presidential Power and the Modern Presidents.

Skowronek, Stephen. 1993. *The Politics Presidents Make: Leadership from John Adams to George Bush*.

Kelley, Christopher, and Bryan Marshall. 2008. "The Last Word: Presidential Power and the Role of the Signing Statement." *PSQ* 38: 248-267.

Canes-Wrone, Brandice, William Howell and David Lewis. 2008. "Toward a Broader Understanding of Presidential Power: A Reevaluation of the Two Presidencies Thesis." *JOP* 70: 1-16.

McCarty, Nolan. 2009. "Presidential Vetoes in the Early Republic: Changing Constitutional Norms or Electoral Reform?" *JOP* 71: 369-384.

Presidents and the Public

Kernell, Samuel. 1978. "Explaining Presidential Popularity." *APSR* 72:506-522.

Kernell, Samuel. 2007. *Going Public: New Strategies of Presidential Leadership*.

Groseclose, Timothy, and Nolan McCarty. 2000. "The Politics of Blame: Bargaining before an Audience," *AJPS* 45: 100-119.

Howell, William. 2003. *Power Without Persuasion: The Politics of Direct Presidential Action*.

Canes-Wrone, Brandice. 2006 *Who Leads Whom? Presidents, Policy, and the Public*.

Edwards, George. 2003. *On Deaf Ears*.

Presidents in the Legislative Arena

Bond, Jon, and Richard Fleischer. 1990. *The President in the Legislative Arena*.

Cameron, Charles. 2000. *Veto Bargaining: Presidents and the Politics of Negative Power*.

Lee, Frances. 2008. "Dividers, Not Unifiers: Presidential Leadership and Senate Partisanship, 1981-2004." *JOP* 70: 914-928.

Jacobson, Gary. 2011. "Legislative Success and Political Failure: The Public's Reaction to Barack Obama's Early Presidency." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 41: 220-243.

Cohen, Jeffrey, Jon Bond, and Richard Fleisher. 2013. "Placing Presidential-Congressional Relations in Context: A Comparison of Barack Obama and His Predecessors." *Polity* 45: 105-126.

Bureaucratic Entrepreneurship and Legislative Control

McCubbins, Matthew, and Thomas Schwartz. 1984. *The Congressional Oversight Overlooked:*

- Police Patrols versus Fire Alarms. *AJPS* 28: 165-179.
- Calvert, Randall, et al. 1989. "A Theory of Political Control and Agency Discretion." *AJPS* 33: 588-611.
- Eisner, Marc Allen, and Kenneth Meier. 1990. "Presidential Control versus Bureaucratic Power: Explaining the Reagan Revolution in Antitrust." *AJPS* 34:269-287.
- Carpenter, Daniel. 2001. *The Forging of Bureaucratic Autonomy: Networks, Reputations, and Policy Innovation in Executive Agencies, 1862-1928*.
- Huber, John, et al. 2001. "Legislatures and Statutory Control of Bureaucracy." *AJPS* 45: 330-345.
- Shipan, Charles. 2004. "Regulatory Regimes, Agency Actions, and the Conditional Nature of Congressional Influence." *APSR* 98:467-480.
- Lewis, David. 2007. "Testing Pendleton's Premise: Do Political Appointees Make Worse Bureaucrats?" *JOP* 69:1073-1088.

Bureaucratic Preferences and Incentives

- Allison, Graham. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis." *APSR* 63:689.
- Wilson, James Q. 1989. *Bureaucracy: What Government Agencies Do and Why They Do It*.
- Bendor, Jonathan, and Thomas Hammond. 1992. "Rethinking Allison's Models" *APSR* 86: 301-322.
- Aberbach, Joel, and Bert Rockman. 1995. "The Political Views of U.S. Senior Federal Executives, 1970-1992." *JOP* 57:838-853.
- Lewis, David. 2008. *The Politics of Presidential Appointments*.

Delegation

- McCubbins, Mathew, Roger Noll, and Barry Weingast. 1987. "Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control." *JLEO* 3: 243-277.
- Carpenter, Daniel. 1996. "Adaptive Signal Processing, Hierarchy, and Budgetary Control in Federal Regulation." *AJPS* 90: 283-302.
- Bendor, Jonathan, A. Glazer, and Thomas Hammond. 2001. "Theories of Delegation." *ARPS* 4: 235-269

Week 12: November 5
Judicial Politics

Required Readings:

- Black, Ryan, Ryan Owens, Justin Wedeking, and Patrick Wohlfarth. 2017. *US Supreme Court Opinions and their Audiences*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Suggested Readings:

Overviews of Judicial Decision-making

- Murphy, Walter. 1964. *Elements of Judicial Strategy*.
- Epstein, Lee, and Jack Knight. 1997. *The Choices Justices Make*.
- Baum, Lawrence. 2006. *Judges and Their Audiences*.
- Bailey, Michael, and Forrest Maltzman. 2011. *The Constrained Court: Law, Politics, and the Decisions Justices Make*.

Separation of Powers

- Dahl, Robert. 1957. "Decision-Making in a Democracy: The Supreme Court as National Policy-Maker." *Journal of Public Law* 6: 279-295.
- Rosenberg, Gerald. 1991. *The Hollow Hope: Can Courts Bring About Social Change?*
- Baum, Larry. 2003. "The Supreme Court in American Politics." *ARPS* 6:161-180.
- Clark, Tom. 2009. "The Separation of Powers, Court-curbing and Judicial Legitimacy." *AJPS* 53:

971-989.

The Attitudinal Model and Legal Constraints on Decision-making

Segal, Jeffrey, and Harold Spaeth. 2002. *The Supreme Court and Attitudinal Model Revisited*.

Segal, Jeffrey, and Harold Spaeth. 1996. "The Influence of Stare Decisis on the Votes of United States Supreme Court Justices." *AJPS* 40: 971-1003.

Knight, Jack, and Lee Epstein. 1996. "The Norm of Stare Decisis" *AJPS* 40: 1018-1035.

Maltzman, Forrest, James Spriggs, II, and Paul Wahlbeck. 2000. *Crafting Law on the Supreme Court: The Collegial Game*.

Richards, Mark, and Herbert Kritzer. 2002. "Jurisprudential Regimes in Supreme Court Decision Making." *APSR* 96: 305-320.

Whittington, Keith. 2007. *The Political Foundations of Judicial Supremacy*.

Bailey, Michael, and Forrest Maltzman. 2008. "Does Legal Doctrine Matter? Unpacking Law and Policy Preferences on the U.S. Supreme Court." *APSR* 102: 369-84.

Bartels, Brandon. 2009. "The Constraining Capacity of Legal Doctrine on the U.S. Supreme Court." *APSR* 103: 474-495.

Zink, James R., James Spriggs II, and John Scott. 2009. "Courting the Public: The Influence of Decision Attributes on Individuals' Views of Court Opinions." *JOP* 71: 909-925.

Black, Ryan, and Ryan Owens. 2009. "Agenda Setting in the Supreme Court: The Collision of Policy and Jurisprudence." *JOP* 71: 1062-1075.

Impact of Public Opinion

Mishler, William, and Reginald Sheehan. 1993. "The Supreme Court as a Countermajoritarian Institution? The Impact of Public Opinion on Supreme Court Decisions" *APSR* 87: 87-101.

Flemming, Roy, and B. Dan Wood. 1997. "The Public and the Supreme Court: Individual Justice Responsiveness to American Policy Moods." *AJPS* 41: 468-498.

Judicial Selection

Goldman, Sheldon. 1997. *Picking Federal Judges*.

Week 13: November 12

State Politics

Required Readings:

Matt Grossmann. 2019. *Red State Blues: How the Conservative Revolution Stalled in the States*.

Additional student leader reading: Canes-Wrone, Brandice, Tom Clark, and Jason Kelly. 2014.

"Judicial Selection and Death Penalty Decisions." *APSR* 108: 23-39.

Suggested Readings:

State Legislatures

Squire, Pevevill. 1992. "The Theory of Legislative Institutionalization and the California Assembly." *JOP* 54: 1026-1054.

Kousser, Thad. 2005. *Term Limits and the Dismantling of State Legislative Professionalism*.

Squire, Pevevill. 2014. *The Evolution of American Legislatures: Colonies, Territories, and States, 1619-2009*.

Governors

Dometrius, Nelson. 1979. "Measuring Gubernatorial Power." *JOP* 41: 589-610.

Kousser, Thad, and Justin Phillips. 2012. *The Power of American Governors: Winning on Budgets and Losing on Policy*.

State Courts

- Hall, Melinda Gann. 1987. "Constituent Influence in State Supreme Courts: Conceptual Notes and a Case Study." *JOP* 49: 1117-1124.
- Huber, Gregory, and Sanford Gordon. 2004. "Accountability and Coercion: Is Justice Blind when it Runs for Office?" *AJPS* 48:247- 263.
- Brace, Paul, and Brent Boyea. 2008. "State Public Opinion, the Death Penalty and the Practice of Electing Judges." *AJPS* 52: 360-372.
- Hall, Melinda Gann, and Chris Bonneau. 2008. "Mobilizing Interest: The Effects of Money on Citizen Participation in State Supreme Court Elections." *AJPS* 52: 457-470.
- Gibson, James. 2008. "Challenges to the Impartiality of State Supreme Courts: Legitimacy Theory and 'New-Style' Judicial Campaigns." *APSR* 102:59-75.
- Hall, Melinda Gann. 2014. *Attacking Judges: How Campaign Advertising Influences State Supreme Court Elections*.

Elections/Voting

- Key, Jr., V.O. 1984 (1949). *Southern Politics in State and Nation*, A New Edition.
- Atkeson, Lonna, and Randall Partin, 1995. "Economic and Referendum Voting: A Comparison of Gubernatorial and Senatorial Elections." *APSR* 89: 99-107.
- Carsey, Thomas, and Gerald Wright, 1998. "State and National Factors in Gubernatorial and Senatorial Elections." *AJPS* 42: 994-1002.
- Berry, William, Michael Berkman, and Stuart Schneiderman. 2000. "Legislative Professionalism and Incumbent Reelection: The Development of Institutional Boundaries." *APSR* 94: 859-874.
- Schaffner, Brian, Matthew Streb, and Gerald Wright. 2001. "Teams without Uniforms: The Nonpartisan Ballot in State and Local Elections." *PRQ*.

Public Opinion

- Erikson, Robert, Gerald Wright, and John McIver. 1993. *Statehouse Democracy: Public Opinion and Policy in the American States*.
- Berry, William. et al. 1998. "Measuring Citizen and Government Ideology in the American States, 1960-93." *AJPS* 42: 327-348.
- Gelman, Andrew. 2008. *Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do*.
- Caughey, Devin, and Christopher Warshaw. 2016. "The Dynamics of State Policy Liberalism, 1936–2014." *AJPS* 60: 899-913.

Interest Groups

- Lowery, David, and Virginia Gray. 1995. "The Population Ecology of Gucci Gulch, or the National Regulation of Interest Group Numbers in the American States." *AJPS* 39: 1-29.

Political Parties

- Gibson, James, Cornelius Cotter, John Bibby, and Robert Huckshorn. 1983. "Assessing Party Organizational Strength." *AJPS* 27: 193-222.
- Wright, Gerald, and Brian Schaffner. 2002. "The Influence of Party: Evidence from the State Legislatures." *APSR* 96: 367-370.

Local Government

- Dahl, Robert. 1960. *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*.
- Peterson, Paul. 1981. *City Limits*.

Federalism/Public Policy

- Peterson, Paul. 1995. *The Price of Federalism*.
- Berry, William, Richard Fording, and Russell Hanson. 2003. "Reassessing the 'Race to the Bottom' in State Welfare Policy." *AJPS* 65: 327-349.

Lax, Jeffrey, and Justin Phillips. 2009. "Gay Rights in the States: Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness." *APSR* 103: 367-386.

Week 14: November 19

Polymaking

Required Readings:

Baumgartner, Frank, and Brian Jones. 2009. *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*, Second Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Additional student leader reading: William Hicks, Seth McKee, Mitchell Sellers, and Daniel Smith. 2015. "A Principle or a Strategy? Voter Identification Laws and Partisan Competition in the American States"

<https://login.ezproxy.uta.edu/login?url=https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.uta.edu/stable/24371969>

Suggested Readings:

Nature of Public Policy

Lindblom, Charles. 1959. "The Science of 'Muddling Through'." *Public Administration Review* 19:79-88.

Lowi, Theodore. 1964. "American Business, Public Policy, Case Studies, and Political Theory." *World Politics* 16:679.

Tiebout, Charles. 1956. "A Pure Theory of Local Expenditures." *Journal of Political Economy* 64: 416-424.

Policy Diffusion

Walker, Jack. 1969. "The Diffusion of Innovations Among American States." *APSR* 63: 880-899.

Boushey, Graeme. 2010. *Policy Diffusion Dynamics in America*.

Policy Subsystems and Policy Agendas

Cobb, Roger, and Charles Elder. 1983. *Participation in American Politics: The Dynamics of Agenda Building*, 2nd ed.

Kingdon, John. 2010. *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policy*, 2nd Edition.

Jones, Bryan, Tracy Sulkin, and Heather Larsen. 2003. "Policy Punctuations in American Political Institutions." *APSR* 97:151-169.

Cashore, Benjamin, and Michael Howlett. 2007. "Punctuating Which Equilibrium Understanding Thermostatic Policy Dynamics in Pacific Northwest Forestry." *AJPS* 51: 532-551.

Week 15: November 26

Research Day

Week 16: December 3 (Class may be off campus)

Submit Research Papers by 7PM

Journal Key:

American Journal of Political Science - AJPS

American Political Science Review – APSR

American Politics Quarterly - APQ

American Politics Research – APR

Annual Review of Political Science – ARPS

Journal of Law, Economics and Organizations - JLEO

Journal of Politics – JOP

Journal of Public Law - JPL
Legislative Studies Quarterly - LSQ
Political Research Quarterly – PRQ
Presidential Studies Quarterly – PSQ
State Politics and Policy Quarterly – SPPQ
Studies in American Political Development - SAPD
Western Political Quarterly – WPQ

VI. A Note on the Readings

From time to time, website links in the syllabus will change or stop working. Remember that publication links are provided as a courtesy. Each of the readings not posted in Canvas can be found through online databases managed by the university, including [JSTOR](#) and [Worldwide Political Science Abstracts](#). If you have questions about searching for an article or would like a tutorial on database research, please contact the university library. The library's liaison to the Department of Political Science is Leyla Bunster (leyla.bunster@uta.edu) and the resource page for political science is at <https://libguides.uta.edu/polisci#gsc.tab=0>.

Remember that links work best when physically at the university. If working off campus, I encourage students to take time in the early portion of the semester to test access to the readings. Also, I advise using an off-campus connection that utilizes a virtual private network (VPN), which makes off-campus downloads easier. VPN software can be downloaded through UTA's Office of Information Technology (see <https://oit.uta.edu/services/vpn/>).

VII. Core Expectations, Communication and Citizenship

Expectations of Students

I have strong yet reasonable expectations for students. To perform well, students are expected to work - meaning in this online course (1) careful attention to the readings, (2) participation in Teams meetings is required, and (3) completion of the assignments. Students that do not carefully read the assigned material or participate in meetings will have a more difficult time with this course. Additionally, I encourage students to use my office hours via Teams. Where questions arise about the content of the course or a student's grade, office hours represent important opportunities for interaction between students and their instructor. If something is unclear to you, it is your responsibility to seek the answer in a timely manner.

Academic Integrity and AI Software

Use of AI software (like ChatGPT) is strictly forbidden. I consider confirmed or suspected use of AI software academic dishonesty and violations will be submitted to UTA's Office of Community Standards. All forms of academic dishonesty (see section VIII.3.) will lead to a grade of zero for any assignment, examination, or research project.

Communication

The University has supplied all students with an official email address. All communication will be directed to you through that address and Canvas. As such, you are responsible for checking your e-mail regularly. Per university policy, I will not respond to non-university email addresses. Also, remember to formalize your email by addressing the e-mail, providing a proper subject, and always signing your email. Note that one-line comments or questions are not enough for me to know what you are trying to say -

be sure to provide enough detail about the context of your comment or question to allow a sufficient answer on my part.

VIII. Special Notes:

1. Cell Phones and Electronic Devices – Students are instructed to turn off their cell phones prior to class. See the comments about cell phone usage in the Citizenship section. Usage of a cell phone or other non-permitted electronic device during an examination or quiz will result in a grade of zero on that examination or quiz.
2. Test Conduct – All materials must be removed from one’s desk during an examination or quiz. Additionally, headwear (e.g., hats), sunglasses, and earphones are not permitted during an examination.
3. Academic Integrity - All students are expected to obey the civil and penal statutes of the State of Texas and the United States, the Regents’ Rules and Regulations of The University of Texas System, the rules and regulations of the University, and the orders or instructions issued by an administrative official of the University or U.T. System in the course of his/her duties, and to observe standards of conduct that are compatible with the University’s function as an educational institution. Any student found to engage in cheating, plagiarism, or collusion will be sanctioned.
4. Inclement Weather – If a class is canceled due to inclement weather, its subject will be delayed until the following class. Similarly, all tests canceled because of inclement weather will be delivered during the following class. For information related to weather related class cancellations please call (972) 601-2049.
5. Emergency Exit Procedures - Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which can be found to the left and right behind the lecture podium. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator, but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.
6. Campus Carry - Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>.
7. Students with Disabilities - Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential.
8. Discrimination Policy – The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit <https://www.uta.edu/eos-title-ix/equal-opportunity-services>.
9. Title IX Policy - The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit <https://www.uta.edu/eos-title-ix/title-ix> or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at 817-272-5062.

10. Student Support Services - The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. Among the support services on campus, the IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers free tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593. For more information, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources.
11. Syllabus Changes – The instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus at any time during the semester.